

### **Building of a Men's House**

The building of a new Men's House at Moose Factory in the period 1823-6 marked the increased activity of the years following the merger of the Hudson's Bay Company and the North-West Company in 1821. Today, the Staff House is the only remaining major structure from that early period on Moose Factory Island.

### **Early days at Moose Factory**

Moose Factory is the oldest English-speaking community in Ontario. In 1673, Governor Charles Bayly built a wintering house on the island. In succeeding years, a major trading post was established on the island to accompany those of Rupert's House, Fort Albany and Fort Nelson, around the periphery of James and Hudson Bay. The post was in turn taken by the French, and re-taken by the English several times prior to 1730 when it was moved upriver to its present location.

### **The Staff House**

The post journals — the daily logs kept by the post manager — record the start of construction of a Men's House in July 21, 1823, at Moose Factory. Each Company post would contain one — or several — Men's Houses to accommodate unmarried staff and the flow of visitors to the site. Later in the century, the "Men's House" became the "Clerk's House", providing



permanent accommodation for Company clerks, a clerk's office and a surgery, to complement reduced visitor usage. The name Staff House was applied to the building in this century.

### **The Ontario Heritage Foundation**

The Staff House was donated by the Hudson's Bay Company to the Ontario Heritage Foundation in December 1977. The turning over ceremony, marked by the presence of the Lieutenant-Governor, the Honourable Pauline M. McGibbon, took place in August 1978.

The Ontario Heritage Foundation was established in 1968 to encourage the conservation of Ontario's cultural heritage. Its resources, derived from public funds and private donations, are used both to hold, preserve and restore heritage property, and to aid those engaged in that process. The Foundation is a Crown agency reporting through the Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

### **Research and investigation**

The Heritage Trust Branch of the Ministry is actively engaged in the first phase — the investigative phase — of a program of repair, to preserve and return the Staff House to active use.

The respect due a historic structure in the course of restoration may emerge only through a complete understanding of the structure. A detailed investigative probing is essential to produce the understanding necessary to deal competently with the complex task of restoring fragile historic fabric.

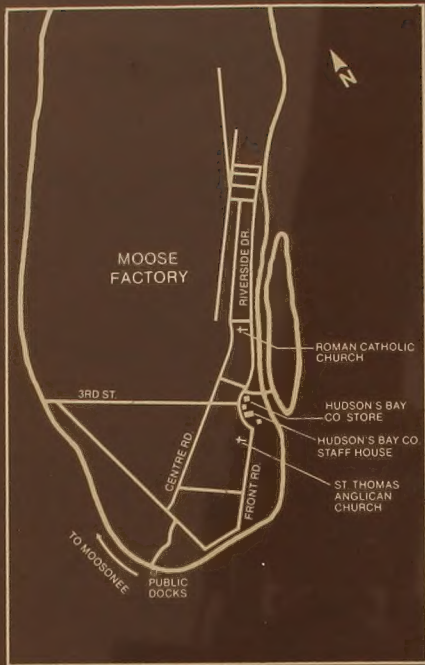
### **Seeing it happen**

Visitors to the Staff House this summer will have the opportunity to view this first essential investigative phase while it is in process.



The efforts of historians, archaeologists and architects, all focused on the produc-

tion of a composite picture of the Staff House and its changing uses over the course of 150 years, will be available for the casual scrutiny of the visitor. Members of the archaeological team will be on hand to illustrate archaeological techniques and to talk about the significance of the week's "finds". The architectural investigating team will be visible: on the roof perhaps, or at their drafting tables. And the work of the project historian will be evident, posted inside — weekly bulletins to bring visitors up to date on the most recent discoveries in the archives.



CA2ΦN  
CR  
-Z254

# THE HUDSON'S BAY CO. STAFF HOUSE



*"Paquette and the three Canadians that came from Albany clearing the Ground for Building a New House" — Moose Factory post journal — July 21, 1823.*



Ontario

Ministry of  
Culture and  
Recreation

D614 7/79 20M

Hon. Reuben C. Baetz  
Minister  
Douglas Wright  
Deputy Minister

ISBN 0 7743 4093 2



Ontario  
Heritage  
Foundation

A.B.R. Lawrence, Q.C.  
Chairman